Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Previously amended) A method for producing a lacquer composition, the method comprising the step of adding silica particles to a reaction mixture comprising a first organosilane compound and a metal alkoxide under basic conditions.
- 2. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the metal alkoxide is a zirconium alkoxide, an aluminum alkoxide, a titanium alkoxide or a mixture thereof.
- 3. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the metal alkoxide is a metal diketonate.
- 4. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first organosilane compound is an epoxysilane.
- 5. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the epoxysilane is 3-glycidyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane.
- 6. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least a second organosilane compound is added to the reaction mixture.
- 7. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the second organosilane compound comprises a tetra-alkoxysilane.

Amendment/Response

Reply to non-FINAL Office action of 13 April 2004

- 8. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the further steps of coating a substrate with the reaction mixture, and curing the reaction mixture to form a lacquer coating on the substrate.
- 9. (Previously amended) A Product provided with a lacquer coating, wherein the lacquer coating is obtained by the method as claimed in claim 8.
- 10. (Previously amended) A starting material composition for obtaining a lacquer composition, the starting material composition comprising an organosilane compound, silica particles, a base, and a metal alkoxide.
- 11. (Previously amended) A lacquer composition comprising the reaction product of the starting material composition
 - 12. (Previously cancelled)
 - 13. (Previously cancelled)
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